

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 15, and 22 have been amended. Support for the amendment of claim 22 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 4 and 5. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14, and 16-22 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-15 and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully note that it appears that the Examiner made a typographical error, and intended to reject independent claim 15, and indicate that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Based on this apparent typographical error, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form, and thus, claims 2-14, and 16-21 should now be allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Maeda Koji. (JP 11118348 - hereinafter Koji). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Again, Applicants respectfully note that it appears that the Examiner made a typographical error, and intended to reject independent claim 15, and indicate that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 15 have been cancelled.

Amended, independent claim 22 recites: "...an electric component box that moves in and out of the second opening, providing access thereto, wherein the electric component box has a drainage part with a drainage passage."

Applicants respectfully submit that Koji neither discloses nor suggests an electric component box having a drainage part with a drainage passage.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 22 patentably distinguishes over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

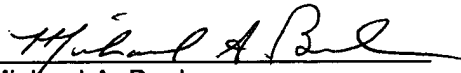
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: January 30, 2006

By: 
Michael A. Bush
Registration No. 48,893

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501